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The European Union and Japan: New Food Import Standards

The EU and Japan have new food import standards that will go into effect in 2006. The new EU regulations will go into effect January 1, 2006 and Japan's new regulations are to take effect in March 2006.

EU Food Hygiene Legislation

In January 2000, after a spate of food scandals and the BSE crisis, the European Commission published the White Paper on Food Safety. The paper set out a legislative action plan for a pro-active new food policy. Key elements were the establishment of a framework regulation, the development of an independent European Food Authority, the development of specific food and feed safety legislation including a major overhaul of the existing hygiene legislation, and the creation of a framework for harmonized food controls. Commonly called the "Farm to Fork" approach, it covers all sectors of the food and feed chain, with traceability as its basic concept.

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was established in 2002 to provide independent scientific advice for EU legislation and policies in all fields that have an impact on food and feed safety and to inform the general public of risks in the food chain.

The new food hygiene legislation will go into effect on January 1, 2006. The European Commission published a Guidance Document on certain key questions related to import requirements and the new rules on food hygiene and on official food controls on June 29, 2005. The document contains references to import procedures, food hygiene requirements, animal health requirements and animal welfare requirements at time of slaughter, among other things.

Japan Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) is involved in food safety risk management, mainly through food labeling via Japanese Agricultural Standards (JAS) Law. JAS Law also covers organic food standards.

JAS Law is going through a major revision as part of the current administration's reform policy calling for a smaller government. Existing JAS law only deals with generic product quality and production methods. The new JAS standard will be able to deal with more sophisticated products and technologies. MAFF's certification program will be replaced by private sector institutions. Allergen labeling will be required by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare (MHLW) on foods containing any of the five ingredients known to cause significant allergic reactions: egg, milk, wheat, buckwheat and peanuts. MHLW also recommends that 20 additional possible allergens, including chicken, be listed on the label when present in food.

Source: EC Health and Consumer Protection Directorate-General; Commission of the European Communities "White Paper on Food Safety"; USDA/FAS; news wires

Poultry Exports (HS 0207) to Selected Countries, in metric tons

	January-December			January-September	
	2002	2003	2004	2004	2005
Turkey	56,431.0	73,478.5	97,186.6	73,478.2	84,195.1
Iraq	0	490.0	21,201.9	14,833.5	10,628.5
UAE	14,016.0	23,090.4	11,732.5	8,500.5	6,974.4
Kuwait	843.3	6,463.2	7,383.3	4,538.5	10,241.4
Uzbekistan	4,007.0	4,790.4	3,513.4	2,269.3	589.2
Armenia	4,935.0	2,255.9	1,452.3	1,184.6	1,315.9
Turkmenistan	5,252.0	3,653.6	1,362.8	1,362.8	0
Tajikistan	0	49.0	1,157.9	1,157.9	517.9
Bahrain	1,590.0	1,255.8	1,137.1	885.9	590.3
Saudi Arabia	1,100.0	785.6	454.3	307.2	701.6
Qatar	722.2	599.1	366.0	221.6	611.0
Oman	952.6	706.7	315.6	236.2	349.3
Jordan	671.3	3,318.5	198.3	155.1	707.5

Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics

Outlook for U.S. Agricultural Trade

FY 2006 broiler meat exports are forecast at 2.5 million metric tons (MMT), valued at \$2.0 billion. Broiler meat exports in 2005 totaled 2.427 MMT valued at \$2.025 billion, compared to 2.121 MMT valued at \$1.692 billion in 2004. Although some increase in volume is expected, lower prices leave the value unchanged at \$2 billion. Russia, Mexico and Turkey are the major markets.

Source: USDA Economic Research Service and Foreign Agricultural Service

Japan: Frozen Egg Imports (in metric tons)

	Frozen Whole Egg	Frozen Yolks	Frozen Albumen	Total
2004				
May	196.1	225.5	0.0	421.6
June	147.4	332.9	0.0	480.3
July	216.8	904.0	0.0	1,120.8
August	229.1	631.4	0.0	860.5
YTD	1,648.0	4,610.4	2.0	6260.4
2005				
May	465.5	1,660.7	421.2	2,547.4
June	356.6	1,808.4	402.1	2,567.1
July	466.0	1,596.0	272.2	2,334.2
August	481.4	1,727.3	290.3	2,499.0
YTD	3,690.3	13,968.1	1,730.7	19,389.1

Source: Ministry of Finance "Japan Exports and Imports" ALIC

Inspected Egg Products-U.S. & Canada Export/Import Trade**U.S. Exports to Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)**

Week Ending December 03, 2005	Year-To-Date			
TYPE	2005	2004 1/	2005 2/	2004
Liquid	360	705	16,330	19,385
Frozen	0	0	130	11
Dried	40	43	848	816
Total	400	748	17,308	20,212

U.S. Imports From Canada, in Pounds (000) (Preliminary)

Week Ending December 03, 2005	Year-To-Date			
TYPE	2005	2004 1/	2005 2/	2004
Liquid	122	99	6,265	7,462
Frozen	0	3	814	1,554
Dried	0	80	371	2,113
Total	122	182	7,450	11,129

Inspected Shell Eggs**U.S Exports To Canada, In 30-Dozen Cases (Preliminary)**

Week Ending December 03, 2005	Year-To-Date			
TYPE	2005	2004 1/	2005 2/	2004
Jumbo	10	0	200	392
Extra Large	1,180	7,679	180,621	208,125
Large	5,220	15,330	293,616	433,175
Medium	2,335	2,526	98,125	134,084
Ungraded	3,750	2,940	225,178	325,259
Misc	0	0	9,753	16,790
Total	12,495	28,475	807,493	1,117,825

1/ Comparable Week, to-date figures may not total due to rounding.

2/ Includes revisions to previous week(s).

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section
Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch.**CENTRAL REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN**

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE CENTRAL REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

Dec 09, 2005

CHICKEN WITH SKIN ADDED

--- PRICES ---		---- VOLUME ----		
FAT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
CONTENT				
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	20.00	61,200	-
WTD AVERAGE		20.00		
15-20%				
RANGE	17.00-21.00	11.00-19.00	1,040,400	652,800
WTD AVERAGE	19.00	14.17		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	-	-	-
WTD AVERAGE				

* INCLUDES THE STATES of AL, AR, IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MI, MN, MO, MS, ND, NE, OK, OH, SD, TN, TX, WI

U.S./Canadian Live Poultry Slaughtered Under Inspection

W/E 3-Dec-05 (PRELIMINARY)

U.S. Fowl Slaughtered Domestically

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
-----Thousands-----			
Head	1,281	1,499	2,780
Last Week	819	940	1,759
Same week yr ago	1,413	1,465	2,878
To-date/2005	68,362	67,875	136,237
To-date/2004	65,378	65,182	130,560

U.S. Fowl Slaughtered in Canada

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
-----Thousands-----			
Head	248	3	251
Last Week	118	0	118
Same week yr ago	335	0	335
To-date/2005	12,315	66	12,381
To-date/2004	11,840	136	11,976

Data Source: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, AISD, AID, Poultry Section

Total U.S. Fowl slaughtered in the U.S. and Canada

	Light Hens	Heavy Hens	Total Hens
-----Thousands-----			
Head	1,529	1,502	3,031
Last Week	937	940	1,877
Same week yr ago	1,748	1,465	3,213
To-date/2005	80,677	67,941	148,618
To-date/2004	77,218	65,318	142,536

Source: USDA/AMS Poultry Programs, Market News Branch

EASTERN REGION MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN

F.O.B. SHIPPER DOCK OR EQUIVALENT, PRICES NEGOTIATED FOR MECHANICALLY SEPARATED CHICKEN IN THE EASTERN REGION IN TRUCKLOT AND LESS THAN TRUCKLOT VOLUMES, CENTS PER POUND, DELIVERY WITHIN TWO WEEKS.

Dec 09, 2005

CHICKEN WITH SKIN ADDED

--- PRICES ---		---- VOLUME ----		
FAT	FROZEN	FRESH	TOTAL	EXPORT
CONTENT				
15% OR LESS				
RANGE	-	17.50-18.00	480,000	-
WTD AVERAGE		17.71		
15-20%				
RANGE	17.00-21.00	14.00-18.00	2,260,000	1,300,000
WTD AVERAGE	18.04	15.33		
20% OR MORE				
RANGE	-	14.00	120,000	-
WTD AVERAGE		14.00		

* INCLUDES THE STATES of CT, DE, FL, GA, MA, MD, ME, NC, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, SC, VA, VT, WV

NATIONAL YOUNG TURKEY PARTS AND BULK MEAT, FROZEN (UNLESS SPECIFIED), CENTS PER LB., DELIVERED FIRST RECEIVERS, PART AND FULL TRUCKLOTS AS OF 9 DECEMBER 2005.

The market tone on tom bulk parts was barely steady on drums and necks, weak on wings. Supplies exceeded the light seasonal demand with tom wings in the longest position and offered as negotiable. Trading was fairly active on fresh tom breast meat with lower trending prices. Fresh scapula traded at 125 - 130, tails at 34 cents. Frozen mechanically separated turkey sold at 15 cents delivered for pet food. Export sales: young hen turkey thigh meat 86.5 FOB, tom defatted gizzards 57.5 delivered port, fresh thigh meat 97 cents and fresh tom drums 38-41, mostly 40 cents delivered.

EXPORT TRADING	PRICE	L.S.T.	WTD AVG	VOLUME	WEEKLY	WEEKLY
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2005	RANGE	CODE 1/	PRICE	(000)	WTD AVG	VOLUME
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	39.50-40.00		39.57	276	38.43	880
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS						
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM						
TAILS		R	34.00	40	34.00	40
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/		R	17.50	52	17.50	52
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN	95.00		95.00	40	95.00	40

EXPORT TRADING	PRICE	L.S.T.	WTD AVG	VOLUME
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2005	RANGE	CODE 1/	PRICE	(000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	40.50-41.00		40.72	92
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS	34.00		34.00	40
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/	17.50		17.50	52
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		F	99.30	200

EXPORT TRADING	PRICE	L.S.T.	WTD AVG	VOLUME
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2005	RANGE	CODE 1/	PRICE	(000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS		T	41.00	40
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS				
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/				
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		F	99.30	200

EXPORT TRADING	PRICE	L.S.T.	WTD AVG	VOLUME
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 06, 2005	RANGE	CODE 1/	PRICE	(000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	41.00		41.00	40
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS				
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/				
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		F	99.30	200

EXPORT TRADING	PRICE	L.S.T.	WTD AVG	VOLUME
MONDAY, DECEMBER 05, 2005	RANGE	CODE 1/	PRICE	(000)
DRUMSTICKS, TOMS	36.00-41.00		37.10	472
WINGS FULL-CUT - TOMS				
WINGS, V-TYPE, TOM				
TAILS				
MECHANICALLY SEPARATED 2/				
THIGH MEAT - FROZEN		F	99.30	200

1/ CODES FOR LAST SIGNIFICANT TRADE (L.S.T.): M=MONDAY T=TUESDAY W=WEDNESDAY R=THURSDAY F=FRIDAY

2/ Product contains 15-20% fat with skin added.